

Successful Playwright Can Even Make a *Car Talk!!!*

Wesley Savick doesn't pretend to have any magic formula that has led to his success as a playwright and director.

The Theatre Department professor, who has received rave reviews for productions on campus, in the Boston area, and throughout the country, says he approaches each project with an open mind, a creative spirit and a thirst for knowledge.

"Every show demands its own material, tone and characters," said Savick. "There are so many different things that have to come together to make it all work. It's a true learning experience for me from beginning to end."

Savick has directed more than 100 professional productions, as well as writing the book and libretto for an opera based on the life of Liberace. He also has created theater pieces based on Edgar Allan Poe, the medieval mystic Margery Kempe, former U.S. Ambassador George F. Keenan, and historian and social activist Howard Zinn.

While his shows have educated people and made them laugh, cry and wonder, there is one thing that Savick hopes each production will deliver.

"I want to touch an individual's human spirit," he said. "I want them to leave the theater excited and refreshed."

Savick's latest show, *Car Talk: The Musical!!!*—the first production created for the new Modern Theatre—played to sold-out houses from March 31–April 3.

Savick wrote and directed the musical comedy inspired by the hit National Public Radio show of the same name.

Ray and Tom Magliozzi, aka Click and Clack, the co-hosts of NPR's "Car Talk," first appeared on the Boston airwaves in 1977. Their radio call-in show, which offers automotive know-how with an air of hilarity, was picked up by NPR for a nationwide audience in 1987.

The play sends up classic Broadway songs about love and relationships. It shows how the psychological and the mechanical intertwine in much the same way that the "Car Talkers" do week after week on their NPR radio show.

Savick describes *Car Talk: The Musical!!!* as "an unlikely marriage between Broadway musicals and automotive advice."

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Athletic Hall of Fame Class

Six athletes, one team and an administrator will be honored during the Hall of Fame induction dinner on Saturday, May 7, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge.

The third Athletic Hall of Fame class includes:

- Patricia Brown, who founded, coached and played for the women's basketball team in the early 1950s. She has three Suffolk University degrees and worked as the Law School librarian before retiring in 1992. Brown also played professional women's baseball.
- Ron Cinelli, an outstanding athlete and consummate team player on both the baseball and basketball teams in the 1960s.
- Evan Crockford, hockey center from 1997 to 2001 and the Rams fourth all-time scoring leader with 116 points (86 goals and 80 assists). His

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Job Shadow Day

Deron Smith, a junior at Charlestown High School, shadowed Frank Conte, director of communications for the Beacon Hill Institute, during the annual Job Shadow Day sponsored by the Boston Private Industry Council and the Boston Public Schools. Smith learned about the institute's public policy work in taxation, regulation and forecasting. During his visit, he participated in a meeting that highlighted how the institute would apply its technical expertise on issues such as job creation and small business and what policy recommendations might emerge. (Photo by Jarred Gould)

Junior Faculty Development Program Welcomes Albanian Law Lecturer

The Center for International Education has collaborated with the Law School to sponsor the University's first junior faculty member under the aegis of the U.S. State Department's Junior Faculty Development Program.

Flutara Tafaj, a lecturer who teaches civil procedure and arbitration in the Department of Civil Law at the University of Tirana, Albania, has been here for several months.

"I'm really enjoying my work here at the Law School," she said. "The different teaching methodologies in different kinds of classes are very interesting, and the professors and students have been extremely supportive. I am learning a lot and consider myself lucky to be part of this wonderful program."

The State Department works with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the American Councils for International Education to provide Junior Faculty Development opportunities.

"The goal of the program is to contribute to the development of higher education in participating countries," said Saeda Wali Mohammed, director of Internationalization Services at the University. "To this end, it provides opportunities for university-level professors demonstrating strong potential for leadership with training in curriculum development and teaching methodologies."

Law School Associate Dean Steve Hicks is Tafaj's faculty adviser during her stay.

"The Junior Faculty Development Program offers us the opportunity to develop international relationships with other law faculties through the personal experience of a teacher in a different legal system learning about our curriculum and our degree programs," said Hicks. "It is very gratifying to be able to enrich the academic career of a young law teacher with exposure to our educational program."

When she returns to the University of Tirana, Tafaj plans to develop a course in mediation, based on her study of the curriculum and the courses taught at Suffolk. She also hopes to promote mediation for the benefit of the legal system of Albania. ▶

Hall of Fame

Continued from page 1

career goals and assists rank third and fourth, respectively, in the school's record books.

- Noreen McBride (Keenan): a four-sport athlete who competed in basketball, baseball, volleyball and cross country. In three years she scored 1,075 points for the Rams basketball team.
- Patti Ann Stanziani (Cooper): the number one singles player in each of her four years for the tennis team was co-captain and MVP during each of her last two seasons.
- 1996 Women's Softball Team, which captured the Great Northeast Athletic Conference championship with a 3-0 victory over the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

To be awarded posthumously:

- Ucal McKenzie, who as a senior was captain and MVP of the soccer team.
- Lou Connelly, the University's first full-time public relations director and sports information director from 1967 until his 2003 retirement. ▶



Successful Playwright

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When he's not teaching, writing or directing, Savick enjoys doing crossword puzzles, listening to jazz and riding his bike around Boston. After spending most of his adult life in the theater, he continues to have that burning desire to face new challenges, inspire others and feel good when that audience applauds.

"I've been doing this for a long time, but I still have that passion to keep going," said Savick. "I love my job and I can't see myself doing anything else." ▶

Wes Savick makes a point during a "Car Talk" rehearsal. (Photo by John Gillooly)

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Curtain Call for Faculty

Health and Wellness Services Director Richard Arnold and Vicki Karns of the Communication and Journalism Department played key roles in the Performing Arts Office's 10th Pioneer Performance Series production.

This year's show was *Bare: A Pop Opera*, which is set in a Catholic boarding school and tells the story of two students struggling with their homosexuality.

This was the first production for Arnold, who played the role of the priest, and the fourth for Karns, who starred as Claire, the mother of one of the lead characters.

Karns has had roles in Performing Arts productions of *The Vagina Monologues*, *The Laramie Project*, and *The Exonerated*.

"It was amazing. The script was phenomenal, and it was just an incredible experience," said Karns, who added that she was "blown away by the poise and dedication" of the young actors. ▸

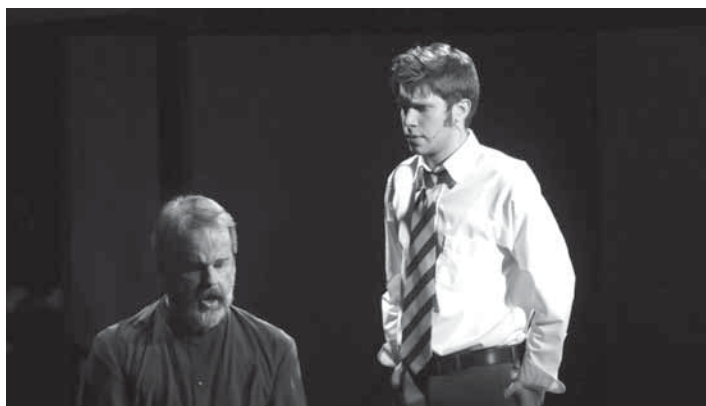
New Faces

Please welcome our newest employees:

Linwood Abbott, Information Technology Services

James Belding, Information Technology Services

Keith Erickson, Communication and Journalism ▸



Richard Arnold plays a priest in *Bare: A Pop Opera*, and Vicki Karns takes on the role of a student's mother. (Photos by Dan McHugh)

Potpourri

Tom Connolly, English, was appointed to the editorial board of *The Ostrava Journal of English Philology*, an international journal that publishes articles on linguistics and the literature and culture of English-speaking countries. It has recently established itself as a leading scholarly publication in Central Europe. The journal is published by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ostrava, which is the nexus of a group of universities in Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

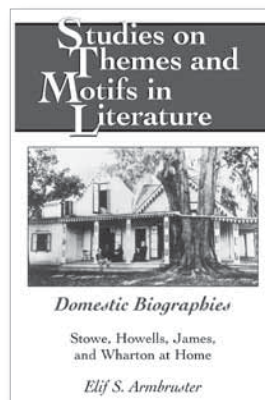
Quentin Miller, English, was on the introductory plenary panel at the conference "James Baldwin's Global Visions" held in February at New York University and the Schomburg Center in New York City.

Sebastián Royo, associate dean of the College and director of the Madrid campus, presented "Lessons from Portugal and Spain in the EU after 25 years: The Challenges of Economic Reforms" at the University of Miami and "Crunch Time for Spanish Financial Institutions?" at the European Union Studies Association biennial international conference in Boston.

Dmitry Zinoviev, Math and Computer Science, chaired a session and presented "A game theoretical approach to modeling information diffusion in social networks" at the Sunbelt Social Networks Conference in Florida.

The University's **Center for Crime and Justice Policy Research** and the Jericho Circle Project sponsored "The Hard Road Home: Welcoming Ex-Offenders Back to the Community." The event featured Lyn Levy from Span, Inc., who outlined reentry issues encountered by former prisoners as they try to reestablish themselves in the community. ▸

Faculty Publications



Elif S. Armbruster, English, has published *Domestic Biographies: Stowe, Howells, James, and Wharton at Home*. The book explores the domestic realities that underscore the authors' Realist fiction and provides an innovative, architectural lens through which to study the lives and literature of four of America's best-known authors.

Melanie Berkmen, Chemistry and Biochemistry. Her article "Efficient Gene Transfer in Bacterial

Cell Chains" was published in the journal *mBio*, March/April 2011.

Thomas McGrath, Humanities and Modern Languages. His article "Dominicans, Franciscans, and the Art of Political Rivalry: Two Drawings and a Fresco by Giovanni Maria della Rovere" was published in *Renaissance Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 2, April 2011, pp. 185–207.

Quentin Miller, English, published a work of flash fiction "Carney" in *Flashquake*, Spring 2011: www.flashquake.org/index.html.

Alasdair Roberts, Law School. His book *The Logic of Discipline: Global Capitalism and the Architecture of Government* (Oxford University Press in 2010) received an honorable mention from the Section on Public Administration Research (SPAR) of the American Society for Public Administration. ▸

Personal Health Questionnaire Offers Valuable Analysis

The University is introducing the new “HEALTHY YOU” personal Health Questionnaire (HQ), a tool designed to provide the information needed to get and stay healthy and thus enjoy life to the fullest.

Employees covered under the University’s Harvard Pilgrim Health Care plan may access the online questionnaire.

To be eligible for a “healthy” raffle, employees must complete the HQ by Tuesday, May 31. Prizes include a Kindle with a gift card for healthy reading; iPod nano with exercise add-ons; Community Supported Agriculture share; in-home healthy cooking class; healthy meal delivery; Spafinder gift card; afternoon tea at the Boston Harbor Hotel; healthy snack basket; healthy cooking basket; and a fitness basket.

The “HEALTHY YOU” HQ is an easy-to-use, confidential questionnaire, which takes about 20 minutes to complete. It asks basic questions about health history and lifestyle, with some items specifically addressed to health issues for men and women.

The HQ also requests basic biometric information (height, weight, blood pressure) and basic blood test results (cholesterol and glucose levels). Those who missed the biometrics screening on campus can get this information from their physicians.

Why are these numbers important? Height and weight are used to calculate body mass index, an indicator of whether weight is at a healthy level given height and gender. High blood pressure can damage arteries,

heart and kidneys, leading to hardening of the arteries. High cholesterol can lead to life-threatening illnesses, such as coronary artery disease, heart attack or stroke. High blood glucose may indicate a health risk related to diabetes and other conditions.

Once submitted, the HQ analyzes responses and produces a confidential, personalized action plan. The report will include suggestions for health screenings and information about wellness and other programs.

A report summary may be printed and used in consulting with a physician. Those whose reports indicate a high risk in any category may opt for a confidential phone conversation with a health coach offering a program tailored to improving their health.

The HQ is voluntary and easy to access on the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care secure Web site: www.harvardpilgrim.org/suffolkuniversity. Log on or create an HPHConnect.

Information provided on the HQ is strictly confidential. Those without access to a computer may call the Human Resources Office for assistance.

The HQ results are provided only to the individual who completes the questionnaire. The University will not receive this confidential information, and completing the HQ will not affect health plan eligibility or benefit payments. ▸



University Awards & Honors

Preservation Massachusetts will recognize the University’s efforts to preserve the Modern Theatre with a Paul E. Tsongas Award, to be presented in May. The organization’s 2011 preservation awards honor higher educational institutions that have “embraced preservation into their educational identity.”

Meanwhile, *National Jurist* magazine listed the Law School among those nationwide that have made “an above-average commitment to public service.” The magazine’s Best Public Interest Law School rankings are based on law schools’ offering one or more public interest clinics, personnel dedicated to overseeing public interest programs and a loan repayment assistance program.

The Princeton Review has selected Suffolk University for inclusion in *The Best 376 Colleges: 2012 Edition*. ▸

The Modern Theatre project is cited as a preservation model for Massachusetts colleges and universities. (Photo by Peter Vanderwarker)



SAVE THE DATE

Spring Fling

Thursday, May 12

4:45–8 p.m.

Rosalie Stahl Center

9th floor